

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update

April 26 – May 2, 2012

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads – SR 120 (Tioga Pass), and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are closed for the winter. SR 108 (Sonora Pass) is scheduled to open this weekend for start of fishing season. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) and June Lake Loop (SR 158) are open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov, for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com.

SR 270, the **BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** road is open. The Rock Creek road is open to Rock Creek Lake. In Bishop Creek, SR 168 is open to Lake Sabrina and the South Lake road is open. The North Lake road is closed. In the White Mountains, the road to the **ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST AND SCHULMAN GROVE** is open to the Sierra View Gate. The Big Pine Canyon, Onion Valley and Whitney Portal roads are open. Horseshoe Meadow road is closed at the Carroll Creek gate.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. SR 190 has construction on weekdays between Salt Creek and Furnace Creek, possible delays of up to 20 minutes. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County (4x4 high clearance vehicles required/travel at your own risk). Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For backcountry road information, check the web at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit/Things To Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current conditions.

WEATHER: Unsettled weather will persist through early Friday with partly cloudy skies, cooler temperatures, periods of gusty winds and a chance of showers over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave. High pressure will build on Friday, reducing winds and warming temperatures to near normal through early next week. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, mid 70s in the Owens Valley and near 100 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from teens in the mountains, to the mid 70s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds (including Brown's Owens River & Crowley Lake Fish Camp) and RV facilities are open throughout the area. **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**, the following Bishop Field office campgrounds are open: Tuttle Creek (fee/no drinking water) and the Pleasant Valley pit (fee/no drinking water). Crowley Lake (fee/no drinking water) will open on Friday, 4/27. Goodale Creek and Horton Creek are closed for renovations, they will open later this summer.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are scheduled to open for the start of fishing season by Friday. Water may not be available at all locations (due to weather conditions). These sites include: Lone Pine, Whitney Portal Family, Grays Meadow (no water), Grandview, Sage Flat, Upper Sage Flat, Big Trees, Bishop Park, Bitterbrush, Forks, Four Jeffrey, Intake Two, McGee Creek, New Shady Rest, Old Shady Rest, French Camp, Tuff, Glass Creek, Gull Lake, June Lake, Oh! Ridge, Reverse Creek, Silver Lake, Lower Lee Vining, Honeymoon Flat (Twin Lakes/ no water), Robinson Creek (Twin Lakes/no water), Craggs (Twin Lakes/no water) and Chris Flat (West Walker/no water).

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK – Valley campgrounds have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through www.recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Sites are available at Wawona (SR 41 south of Yosemite Valley) and Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120, near Big Oak Flat), reservations are recommended. Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley is first-come/first-served. For information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, open sites include: Sunset, Texas Spring, Stovepipe Wells, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee) and Wildrose (no fee). Furnace Creek campground is closed for sewer and water line replacement, estimated opening in May; other campgrounds are available in the area. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/deva.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season opens Saturday, April 28, in the Eastern Sierra. These waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. Some "fishy" activities are going on almost everywhere in the Eastern Sierra to celebrate the opening of trout season; check with any local sporting goods store for planned community activities. The **BISHOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has up-to-date fishing reports for many of the lakes and streams in the area, call 1-760-873-8405 for more information. The 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

To help prevent the spread of invasive mussels, including the quagga and zebra mussels that can impact the fishery and damage water systems, all boats, kayaks, and canoes planning to launch at Crowley Lake must be inspected and enter through the main gate at the South Landing. For more information about boat inspections, contact the LADWP at (760) 872-1104, or visit the web site at www.LADWP.com/mussels.

WINTER SPORTS: **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 5 to 8 foot base. For daily lift operation and snow conditions visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com, or call 1-888-766-9778.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for current snow conditions, trail maps and avalanche risk; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500. The **EASTERN SIERRA AVALANCHE CENTER (ESAC)** offers avalanche advisories and an on-line discussion center for the region. For information, check the web at www.esavalanche.org.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy and icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. The snow level on the Whitney trail is approximately 10,000 feet (lower on north facing slopes). In Yosemite National Park, the current snow level is approximately 7,500 feet. Significant snowpack remains at higher elevations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas starting 5/1. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. The Whitney zone permit lottery is closed; any remaining spaces are available now for reservations. Day use in the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is included in the Whitney Zone quota. For more information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the new reservation system, please visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: The **43rd Annual Pilgrimage** to the **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** will be held on Saturday, April 28th at 12:00pm near the camp cemetery site. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the camp's opening and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Manzanar National Historic Site. The ceremony includes a performance by the **UCLA Kyodo Taiko**. Dr. Mitchell T. Maki, lead author of *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress*, is the keynote speaker. Bring your own water, food and don't forget sunscreen! Additional activities are scheduled starting on Friday and continue through Sunday, including the Manzanar at Dusk (MADness) program at 5:00pm in the Lone Pine High School auditorium on Saturday. For more information, visit the Park Service web site at www.nps.gov/manz or the Manzanar Committee site at www.manzanarcommittee.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located 1 mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, is open 9:00am to 4:30pm, Thursday - Monday for displays, information and a film presentation.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park. Check at the Interpretive Center, for more information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 20 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm. Ranger talks and interpretive programs are presented daily. An evening program is presented at 7:30pm in locations near Furnace Creek. Check at the Visitor Center or on the web at www.nps.gov/deva for more information. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 4:00pm and "Underground Mystery Tours" daily. Reservations for Scotty's Castle tours are available on the web at recreation.gov, or call 1-877-444-6777.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 4/19/12kcw